

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CAIRO 03728 011654Z
ACTION CPR-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 /027 W
-----117360 020627Z /23

R 011646Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5042

UNCLAS CAIRO 03728

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP EG US
SUBJECT: GIFT FOR PRESIDENT CARTER OF 5000-YEAR-OLD
MUMMIFIED FISH

REF: STATE 25066

1. WILL ATTEMPT TO RETURN FISH TO DONOR, AS SUGGESTED
REFTEL, BUT HE MAY INSIST THAT HE WISH PRESIDENT CARTER TO
HAVE THEM.
2. IF WE SUCCEED IN RETURNING FISH, FINE. IF NOT, WE
WILL SEEK OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE BOX IN WHICH THEY WERE
PRESENTED HAND-CARRIED TO U.S. WE ARE SOMEWHAT CONCERNED
THAT THERE MAY BE PROBLEMS WITH CUSTOMS OR HEALTH
OFFICIALS IN BRINGING IN THESE MUMMIFIED FISH. SHOULD
THIS ROUTE HAVE TO BE FOLLOWED, WE MAY AT APPROPRIATE
TIME REQUEST DEPT ASSISTANCE WITH APPROPRIATE AIRPORT
AUTHORITIES.
3. FOLLOWING IS DESCRIPTION OF THE GIFT FOR WHITE HOUSE
REPLY TO DONOR: GREEN VELVET-COVERED BOX, MEASURES
APPROX 7 1/2 X 9 INCHES. INSIDE OF LID IS COVERED IN
WHITE SATIN-TYPE CLOTH WITH ARABIC WRITING IN BLUE INK.
BOTTOM INTERIOR OF BOX IS LINED WITH GREEN VELVET. BOX
CONTAINS FOUR MOSTLY-WHOLE, RATHER WILTED MUMMIFIED FISH.
LARGEST FISH IS 9 3/4 INCHES LONG, HAS NO TAIL AND A VERY
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LOOSELY ATTACHED HEAD WITH PROTRUDING JAW. VERY LITTLE
OF ITS CLOTH WRAPPING IS LEFT. NEXT LARGEST FISH IS
5 INCHES LONG, CLOTH WRAPPING AND SECURING "STRING" IN
GOOD CONDITION (CONSIDERING ITS AGE). THIRD FISH IS
4 1/2 INCHES LONG AND VERY WELL WRAPPED (CANNOT SEE
ANY OF ITS FEATURES). LAST "FISH" IS 2 1/2 INCHES LONG
AND LOOKS LIKE A PIECE OF MUMMY CLOTH WRAPPED UP WITH

STRING. ALL FISH ARE VARYING SHADES OF BROWN AND NONE OF THEM SMELL.

4. FISH ARE VERY FRAGILE AND LIKELY TO DISINTEGRATE UNLESS TREATED VERY CAREFULLY. BOX, TOO, IS QUITE FRAGILE.

5. THE FISH WERE GIVEN TO PRESIDENT CARTER BY MR. MOHAMED RASHED MAHMOUD HAFEZ, SOCIAL AFFAIRS UNIT AT ESNA, MERKAZ ESNA, QENA GOVERNORATE, EGYPT. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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